

# Why Was Santos Trafficante Called Before the House Assassinations Committee? – Part 1

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*"Mark my words: he [John F. Kennedy] will get what is coming to him. He is going to be hit."*

— Santos Trafficante

One of the first witnesses called by the House Assassinations Committee in its investigation was Louis Santos Trafficante, Jr. Often referred to simply as a "Tampa businessman", Trafficante has long been known to students of the Syndicate as a major participant in the international operations of organized crime. He has operated a numbers racket in South and Central Florida for many years. (See Hank Messick, "Lansky".) Several other authorities on organized crime suggest that he is the heir to Lucky Luciano as the Syndicate administrator of the international narcotics traffic.

## Recent Revelations

Three recent revelations about Trafficante seem to have prompted the Assassinations Committee to subpoena him.

(1) John Roselli (now deceased) told Senate investigators in 1975 that both he and Trafficante were involved in plots by the Central Intelligence Agency to assassinate Fidel Castro. Just before Roselli was murdered last year, these same Senate investigators learned that, ten years ago, Roselli told his attorney and others that associates of Trafficante (acting on behalf of Cuban intelligence, according to Roselli) were involved in the Kennedy assassination. (Schweiker-Hart Report, pp. 80-86; Jack Anderson, 9/7/76.)

(2) George Crile ("Washington Post", 5/16/76) has reported the story of a Cuban FBI informant who knew Trafficante. This man, Jose Aleman, Jr., was a high-ranking member of the Miami anti-Castro community. In September, 1962, he was negotiating with Trafficante to get a loan from the Teamsters Union. Trafficante, in one conversation, was complaining about the ongoing attempt by the Kennedy brothers to put Jimmy Hoffa in jail. "Mark my words, he will get what is coming to him. He is going to be hit." Aleman's FBI control agent dismissed this remark, but more than a year later, on the day of the Kennedy assassination, the FBI returned to interview Aleman about Trafficante's statement. No record of such an interview has come to light, and the FBI agents involved have declined to comment.

(3) Finally, recently released CIA documents on the Kennedy assassination (#59, 83, 94; March, 1976; AP and Bernard Fensterwald) revealed that four days after the assassination a British journalist named John Wilson-Hudson told officials at the American Embassy in London that in 1959 he knew an American gangster named Ruby.

Did Trafficante know Ruby? This was one of the questions put to him in March by Richard A. Sprague,

then Committee Chief Counsel. Trafficante took the Fifth Amendment. The following review of his and Ruby's involvement in Mob gambling enterprises in Cuba suggests that Trafficante and Ruby may have encountered each other.

## Tropicana Hotel

Trafficante became a major behind-the-scenes owner of the Tropicana Hotel and Casino in Havana. The publicly identified owner, Norman Rothman, was involved in pre-1959 deals with Castro, including gun-running. ("Washington Post", 5/16/76.) Perhaps this explains the favored treatment accorded to Trafficante as Castro's prisoner after the revolution, which is mentioned by the British journalist Wilson-Hudson. In any case, Rothman, in 1958, had also made alliances with right-wing anti-Batista forces, including Jose Aleman. Two years later, with Aleman back in exile in Miami (fleeing this time from Castro), the FBI brought Rothman to trial for his political activities and Aleman appeared as a prosecution witness. Out of this grew Aleman's service to the Bureau as informant, and ultimately his 1962 report that Trafficante said Kennedy would be killed.

## Lewis McWillie

The Casino Manager at the Tropicana in 1959 was Lewis McWillie. He was a gambler from Dallas and a close friend of Jack Ruby. It was at McWillie's invitation in 1959 that Ruby visited Cuba. McWillie told the FBI in 1964 that the Tropicana was "Cuban-owned". He was not called as a witness by the Warren Commission. After he left Cuba, McWillie was employed at the Cal-Neva Lodge in Reno, which was owned by Sam Giancana (now deceased), the Chicago mobster who was involved with Roselli and Trafficante in the CIA plots against Castro. McWillie at present writing is still in Nevada.

## Ruby and Cuban Gun-running

According to evidence received by the Warren Commission (26H 634), Ruby was involved in the late 1950's "in arranging illegal flights of weapons from Miami to the Castro organization in Cuba." He was "reportedly part owner of two planes used for these purposes." The evidence suggests that Ruby may have had contact with Trafficante and/or Rothman in these activities.

## Robert McKeown

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# People and the PURSUIT of Truth

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### THE CREDIBILITY OF "PEOPLE AND THE PURSUIT OF TRUTH"

by Edmund C. Berkeley, Editor

In an article in this issue, the credibility of this magazine is questioned. Says Fred Pilot, "only if facts, information, and truth" are adhered to "will your credibility remain intact."

I am sure that our credibility has never been "intact", and that different people attribute credibility to us along a scale ranging from almost zero for no credibility to almost one for total credibility.

But there are some elements of credibility that are worth discussing.

1. We will not, like "Time" magazine, publish a picture of Lee Harvey Oswald which is a clear and known forgery and treat it as if it were the truth.

2. We will not, like "The New York Times", alter a book review by John Leonard of Garrison's "Heritage of Stone" printed in the first edition, a review that questions

the Warren Report, and alter it into a book review (printed in later editions) that is innocuous so that no questions remain. (See "The Central Intelligence Agency and 'The New York Times'" by Samuel F. Thurston, in "Computers and Automation", July 1971).

3. We will seek to publish statements and articles by persons who probably know what they are talking about and who are probably not lying at the time they talk about it: for example, a statement by Richard M. Nixon when it is an official message from the President of the United States (which he then was) to the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (DRV), explicitly promising reparations to the DRV.

4. If it becomes clear that something we have published is far from the truth, we shall publish corrections as plainly and as clearly as we can.

5. We are totally against lies, and their repetition and perpetuation.

6. We seek to pursue the truth, without claiming to attain it finally.

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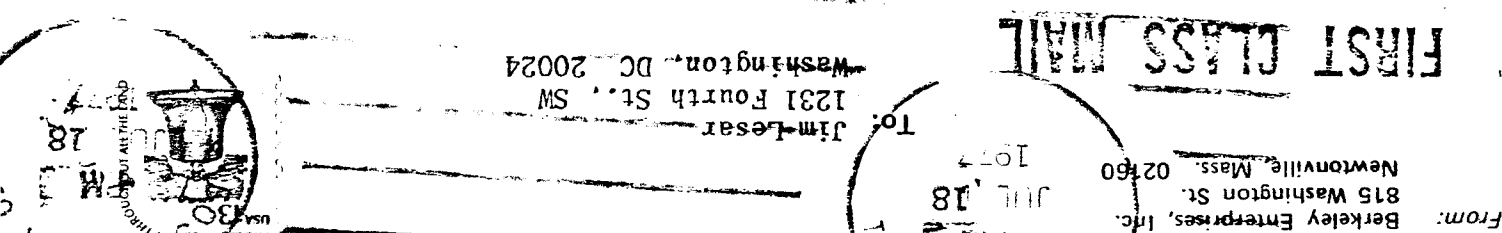
- facts, information, truth, and unanswered questions that are important to people, widely suppressed, and not adequately covered in the usual American press; and also to
- solutions to great problems that are functioning well in some countries or places, yet are almost never talked about in the usual American press.

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# "Have Certain News Reports Been Influenced by Reasons Other than Providing Information to the Public?"

*Congressman Walter E. Fauntroy, District of Columbia  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515*

(From the Congressional Record, April 27, 1977)

Mr. Speaker, over the past two days, the "Washington Post" has run two news stories and one editorial about questions I have raised concerning journalists and the manner in which the House assassinations probe has been treated by some in the print media. I wish to clarify certain positions which those news articles have attributed to me so that my colleagues in the Congress may clearly understand where I stand.

The House Assassinations Committee has no plans, current or future, to call news reporters before it for purposes of probing their coverage of the investigation. I have simply stated that I have a personal interest in finding out whether certain news reports have been influenced by reasons other than providing information to the public. My interest stems from my belief that some of the reports have been designed to discourage the probe by the House.

Objectivity in reporting on as sensitive a matter as these assassinations probes is of great importance, in my view. My concerns in this regard were prompted by a published report in the "Washington Star-News" of November 30, 1973, in which it was reported that the CIA employed some 40 journalists who doubled as undercover contacts. On December 1, 1973, the "Washington Post" carried a similar article. I am including for the Record both articles as part of my remarks.

One of the two undercover contacts whom the articles identified is currently assigned to cover, report, and interpret the activities of the committee for the "Washington Star-News". I simply wonder how many of the unnamed former contacts are similarly reporting and interpreting the probe. That is the extent of my interest.

I am a strong supporter and advocate of hard, factual news coverage, and I cherish dearly the right of every American to speak out. I am, however, greatly troubled by the thought that the news media, which has much influence over us, has, at least in the past, been linked to the CIA. My concern is heightened by revelations of domestic activity and abuses by the CIA, revelations which, in part, caused both the House and the Senate to establish select committees to investigate intelligence agencies.

In assessing the initial investigation of the Kennedy assassination the Senate select committee concluded in book V of its final report of the Select Committee To Study Governmental Operations With Respect to Intelligence Activities:

"The Committee has, however, developed evidence

which impeaches the process by which the intelligence agencies arrived at their own conclusions about the assassination, and by which they provided information to the Warren Commission. This evidence indicates that . . . the investigation of the assassination was deficient and that facts which might have substantially affected the course of the investigation were not provided the Warren Commission or those individuals within the FBI and the CIA, as well as other agencies of Government, who were charged with investigating the assassination."

Although I have publicly stated my concern, I have not sought, nor have I intended, to intimidate the press. I am hopeful that these remarks will serve to clear the air surrounding this issue. I believe all my colleagues will agree that it is a sad and dangerous commentary on our news delivery system if those charged with informing the public have personal interests at stake.

The news articles follow:

[From the "Washington Star-News", Nov. 30, 1973]

## Journalists Doubling as CIA Contacts

(By Oswald Johnston)

The Central Intelligence Agency has some three dozen American journalists working abroad on its payroll as undercover informants, some of them as full-time agents, the "Star-News" has learned.

After CIA director William E. Colby ordered a review of the practice two months ago, agency officials found the names of some 40 full-time reporters, freelance journalists and correspondents for trade publications in their files as regular undercover contacts who supplied information to agents in the field and who are regularly paid for their services.

The use of foreign correspondents by the CIA has been quietly suspected — and feared — for years by legitimate reporters who have worked overseas. But the suspicion has never been verifiable until now. The facts were made known by an authoritative source.

The continuing extent of the practice and its wide scope, which is believed to have been scaled down since the Cold War tensions of the 1950's, was apparently a surprise even to Colby, who last month ordered a significant cutback in the CIA relationship with journalists connected with major news organizations.

No longer to remain on the agency payroll is the one category of journalist-agents whose continued

existence could most seriously compromise the integrity of the American press in general and possibly cripple its ability to function overseas.

To be phased out is a small group of no more than five full-time staff correspondents with general-circulation news organizations who function as undercover contacts for the CIA and are paid for their services on a regular contractual basis.

It is understood that three of these agents have maintained their CIA contacts without the knowledge of the news organizations involved, but that the CIA sideline of the other two is known to their civilian employers.

Sources refused to identify any of the reporters involved, but it is understood that none of the five agents who are being cut off were regular staff correspondents of major American daily newspapers with regular overseas bureaus.

Colby is understood to have ordered the termination of this handful of journalist-agents in the full realization that CIA employment of reporters in a nation which prides itself on an independent press is a subject fraught with controversy.

Nevertheless, he has approved explicitly the continued maintenance of more than 30 other CIA agents abroad who are not strictly newsmen but who rely on some kind of journalistic "cover" for their intelligence operations.

Among those to be maintained is by far the largest category of journalist-agents: a group consisting of about 25 operatives scattered across the globe who appear to the world as free-lance magazine writers, "stringers" for newspapers, news-magazines and news services, and itinerant authors. (A stringer is a journalist, usually self-employed, who offers news-magazines on a piece-work basis to news organizations which do not have regular staff members in the stringer's city.)

Agents in this category are not regularly identified with any single publication, and most of them are full-time informants who frankly use their writing or reporting as cover for their presence in a foreign city. Most of them are American citizens.

Most are paid directly and regularly for services rendered, but a few of these semi-independent free-lance writers occasionally draw on CIA funds to pay out-of-pocket expenses for trips in which the agency had an interest or for entertaining a useful contact.

A second group of overseas correspondents whom Colby intends to keep on the payroll consists of eight writers for small, limited-circulation specialty publications, such as certain types of trade journals or commercial newsletters. It is understood that most in this group operate as paid CIA informants with the approval of their employers.

Colby also intends to keep up the quiet, informal relationship the agency has built up over the years with many reporters working at home and abroad and editors who for their part maintain regular contact with CIA officials in the routine performance of their journalistic duties.

No money changes hands under these relationships, either as occasional payment or as reimbursement for expenses. In general, the relationship is limited to occasional lunches, interviews or telephone conversa-

tions during which information would be exchanged or verified. Each side understands that the other is pursuing only his own tasks.

In such a relationship, the reporter would be free to use the information he gained in a news story, and occasionally the CIA agent might make use of what he has learned from the reporter. Very likely, the CIA official would report the gist of his conversations with the reporter to his superiors, orally or in a written memo.

In this group, sources indicated, the CIA includes "Star-News" reporter Jeremiah O'Leary whose name apparently found its way into agency files as a result of contacts of this professional type during assignment overseas for the "Star-News".

(Star-News editors have discussed this matter with O'Leary and other sources and have found no evidence to suggest that either he or this newspaper has been compromised.)

Veteran intelligence operatives are understood to look with mixed feelings on Colby's decision to break off CIA contacts with legitimate full-time correspondents.

On the one hand, journalists operate under conditions that, in the eyes of a professional spy, provide a natural "cover", combined with unusually good access to people and places abroad that would be unavailable to persons in other professions.

The use of journalist-agents is known to be widespread in Communist-bloc countries where the press is government-controlled, and during the 1950's the Tass correspondent who was also a Soviet agent was almost proverbial.

At the same time, agency officials are known to recognize that CIA penetration of the American press, if discovered or even suspected to exist on a wide scale, would further damage the CIA's shaky public image at home and could seriously compromise the reputation of the American press.

For both of these reasons, sources were extremely reluctant to give any details of the operations in which journalist-agents were involved or to discuss their assignments in any but the most general way. Sources who verified the existence of the practice refused to reveal how much the agents were paid or where they have been deployed.

Colby himself is thought to be solely responsible for the decision to cut off the CIA relationship with full-time staff correspondents for general news-gathering organizations.

During his Senate confirmation hearings last summer, Colby promised in the aftermath of the Watergate-related disclosures of domestic political espionage that he would take pains to operate "an American intelligence agency" — that is, one with operations compatible with a democratic society.

Colby's cutback on CIA use of the press is understood to have been governed by that promise. Nevertheless, Colby has privately justified past use of the news media as agency cover by stressing that newsmen operatives were not as a rule used as vehicles for planting propaganda.

As a matter of standard operating procedure, sources insist, an agent operating under cover as a

freelance writer or as a staff correspondent for a newspaper or news agency almost never had his news stories or articles "critiqued" by his case officer.

While propaganda admittedly has been an important part of clandestine CIA operations abroad, that function has been kept separate from the routine running of agents, even though both assignments belonged to the agency's Clandestine Services, under the Operations directorate.

Accordingly, the extensive network of dummy foundations through which the CIA was revealed in 1967 to have funneled cash to such publications as "Encounter" magazine or such organizations as the American Newspaper Guild was not related to the use of newsmen or writers as intelligence operatives in the field.

If anything, the use of newsmen in this way seems to have been carried out at the discretion of station chiefs abroad, with little or no central oversight.

Until late last summer, neither Colby himself nor the top officials in the Operations directorate had any precise information on how many clandestine agents were currently operating under journalistic cover.

During September, in the aftermath of revelations that the Nixon administration used journalists as paid political spies during the 1968 and 1972 presidential campaigns, and in response to queries from the press, Colby ordered an in-house investigation within the Clandestine Services to find out exactly what the situation was.

The specific impetus for the press inquiries, which in turn spurred Colby to order the Operations directorate to search its files, was the published disclosure that Seymour K. Friedin, a political spy for the 1972 Nixon campaign, regularly passed information to the CIA when working as a syndicated columnist in Europe during the 1950's.

[From the Washington Post, Dec. 1, 1973]

#### Use Revealed by Colby Survey -- Newsmen Supply Data to CIA

The Central Intelligence Agency has been paying more than three dozen agents operating under journalistic covers abroad for part-time or full-time services. This was determined by CIA Director William E. Colby as the result of a survey of undercover agents spurred by recent congressional inquiries into possible domestic operations of the agency.

Colby has reportedly decided to remove from the CIA payroll a small number of full-time news correspondents with whom the agency had contracted for services, according to authoritative sources. But it is understood that he plans to retain the services of the majority of the journalist agents, who are not associated with major publications but function under various reportorial covers.

The CIA director was reported to be out of town yesterday on official business and agency spokesmen would not comment officially on the report, published in the "Washington Star-News". It was independently confirmed, however, by knowledgeable officials.

Rep. Lucien Nedzi (D-Mich.), chairman of the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Intelligence, said yesterday he would make inquiries into the practice

of paying journalists for intelligence services.

"I can't say I'm really surprised," Nedzi said of the disclosure. "I suppose the real problem was whether the press was being used to peddle a certain line. To them it was an arrangement for gathering of intelligence. I find it difficult to see much wrong with it."

So far the only two journalists' names that have emerged from the CIA's file belong to a smaller group of perhaps a dozen correspondents with whom the agency has maintained informal, unpaid, working relationships. One is former Europe-based columnist Seymour K. Friedin, who was implicated as a supplier of information to the Nixon campaign in 1972. The other is "Star-News" correspondent Jeremiah O'Leary, as reported in the "Star-News" story. O'Leary was mentioned in a category of newsmen who occasionally exchange information with CIA officials in the routine performance of journalistic duties without any monetary considerations.

Interviews with CIA station chiefs or lesser officials in overseas posts are not uncommon practices for correspondents of most major publications in the performance of their news-gathering functions. Normally, however, it is not considered part of the journalistic function to provide information to government agents.

Several former CIA operatives expressed surprise at the number of newsmen Colby discovered on the agency's current payroll. "It's quite a bit more than I would have expected," said one CIA veteran who now monitors agency activities on Capitol Hill.

The majority of this group, some two dozen, were determined to be operating under the cover of freelance journalists or "stringers" (correspondents not on the regular staffs of publications) working in foreign posts.

In 1967 the agency was wracked by a massive series of disclosures that it was underwriting activities of book publishers, magazines, student and cultural organizations and trade unions, including the American Newspaper Guild.

In the aftermath of those revelations the CIA was understood to have withdrawn from covert financing of such organizations as well as from a network of foundation conduits through which the money was channeled.

More recently agency officials have been questioned by congressional oversight committees — in the aftermath of the Watergate scandal — about CIA involvement in domestic activities. Several bills have been proposed which are designed to curtail domestic operations of the CIA.

There have, however, been no recent revelations of CIA penetration of domestic institutions comparable to the scale of those uncovered in the late 1960's. □

[End of Congressman Fauntroy's Insertion  
in the Congressional Record]

# Does the "Power Control Group" Influence the Publication of News in the Media of the United States?

1. From Frederick L. Pilot  
P.O. Box 15516  
San Diego, CA 92115

The story by Richard E. Sprague in the May issue of "PURSUIT" ("Congressional Investigation of Political Assassinations in the United States: The Two Approaches: From the Bottom Up vs. From the Top Down") was very disturbing to me.

Mr. Sprague has accused certain elements of the press — our last line of defense for our domestic freedoms in this nation — of participating in a conspiracy to obstruct justice by covering up the truth concerning the JFK assassination. Does Mr. Sprague realize the gravity of his assertion?

I was profoundly shocked to read in Mr. Sprague's story that "The New York Times" and "The Washington Post", including none other than Watergate editor Ben Bradlee, are active participants in a "Power Control Group" conspiracy to conceal from the public the truth behind the untimely death of John F. Kennedy, and to sabotage a House investigation into the murder.

Frankly, I find such an allegation extremely hard to believe. Ben Bradlee and JFK were intimate friends. Could Mr. Bradlee, in good conscience, cover up the murder of his old friend?

In all fairness, I feel Mr. Bradlee should have been given an opportunity to respond to Mr. Sprague's allegations. So, I sent him a copy of Mr. Sprague's story, asking him to comment on the charges leveled against him.

His response follows this letter.

I am a charter subscriber to "PURSUIT", and have found it interesting.

My extensive reading, attendance at lectures given by the CIPA (Committee to Investigate Political Assassinations) and the AIB, and my visits to the National Archives (to view the photographic evidence), and Dealey Plaza, have aroused in me much doubt about the official explanation of President Kennedy's shooting.

I believe that the true facts and circumstances of his assassination have been officially suppressed. And I believe we need to know why. But simply to make accusations and theorize won't answer that question.

The credo of "PURSUIT", "facts, information, and truth," is a noble one for any publication devoted to serving its readers. Only if it is adhered to will your credibility remain intact. Publications like

"PURSUIT" need all the credibility obtainable, especially in view of the many "supermarket scandal sheets" that seem to have a monopoly on the journalistic investigation of the JFK assassination.

Please don't discredit yourself. Document your evidence. Back up your stories. Keep asking questions about the JFK assassination and the others that followed. And most important of all, don't lose track of the goal you are pursuing: TRUTH.

In addition, please consider creating an opinion page for editorials and readers' letters. Also, "commentary" and "analysis" inserts, where appropriate.

2. From Mr. Benjamin C. Bradlee  
Executive Editor  
1150 15th St., NW  
Washington, DC

To: Mr. Frederick L. Pilot

My father taught me never to play poker with a man named "Doc," never to eat at a diner called "Mom's," and never to get in an argument with those people who believe in a conspiracy theory of history.

I am not now, nor have I ever been, a member of the "Power Control Group."

3. From Richard E. Sprague  
Hartsdale, NY

(quoted from the May 1977 article in "PURSUIT")

... A precise definition of the "Power Control Group" is:

that group of individuals or organizations that knowingly participated in one or more of the assassination conspiracies or related murders or attempted murders, plus all the individuals who knowingly participated in or are still participating in the coverups of those conspiracies or murders. ...

Anyone who has honestly and openly taken the time to examine just a few pieces of "hard" evidence in any one of the four major cases has no trouble at all deciding that there were in fact individual conspiracies in each one.

4. From Former Congressman Thomas N. Downing  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC

(quoted from "If Oswald Had Been Brought to Trial ...", in the May 1976 issue of "PURSUIT")

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# Why Was Santos Trafficante Called Before the House Assassinations Committee? – Part 1

Jim Kostman  
Research Director, Assassination Information Bureau  
Dept. of Philosophy  
Univ. of California at Berkeley  
Berkeley, CA 94720

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then Committee Chief Counsel. Trafficante took the Fifth Amendment. The following review of his and Ruby's involvement in Mob gambling enterprises in Cuba suggests that Trafficante and Ruby may have encountered each other.

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## Lewis McWillie

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## Robert McKeown

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# The Death of de Mohrenschildt, Witness Regarding President Kennedy's Assassination

B. Burden  
300 Church St.  
Bocking, Braintree  
Essex, Great Britain

Readers will be familiar with the broad details of George de Mohrenschildt's recent death. It is true as the papers indicate that de Mohrenschildt had recently been having mental treatment in Dallas. In addition, he told Willem Oltmans, the Dutch reporter, that he was in league with Oswald, and that now "they" were out to kill him. Those who have followed Fletcher Prouty's various articles on the "Secret Team" will know that faking suicides is now a fine art. Prouty also mentions that the gun-in-the-mouth method is a favorite with the "Team". So the answer is that we don't know whether de Mohrenschildt jumped or was pushed.

What we can do is to dispel fairly quickly the "nutty professor" image some of the press built up around the victim (while at the same time awarding him the innocent-sounding title of "a geologist").

In Chapter 7 of "A Heritage of Stone" Jim Garrison provides the following information: de Mohrenschildt, he tells us, was a consulting geologist. He was born in Czarist Russia, son of a nobleman and landowner. His family had fled from the Bolsheviks, and for a long time his father had been imprisoned by them. De Mohrenschildt's schooling extended from Poland through Belgium and France to Texas. During World War II he had worked for French Intelligence. He spoke French, Russian, Polish, Spanish, German, and a smattering of other languages. All of the latter, Garrison indicates, is on record in Volume 9 of the Warren Commission Hearings. As a geologist, Garrison continues, de Mohrenschildt had travelled extensively throughout the world. He had spent a year in Yugoslavia representing the International Cooperation Administration, located in Washington. He had gone to Ghana allegedly as a stamp collector, though he was consulting geologist for an oil company at the time. During the Bay of Pigs he was in Guatemala where he had just concluded a long trek through Central America. At the time of JFK's assassination he was in Haiti. He was a member of the exclusive Dallas Petroleum Club and had many high-level contacts in the business world. He was Oswald's most frequent companion on his return to Dallas from Russia.

This picture, based upon research and investigation, is considerably enlarged upon in "James Hepburn's" "Farewell America". This book should be approached with some caution. It is generally supposed to be a compilation by the French Intelligence service under de Gaulle, and it is by no means certain whether it should be regarded as an expose or a simple piece of black propaganda. Whatever the case, "Hepburn" alleges that de Mohrenschildt had Oswald under surveillance for the CIA. Nicknamed "the Chin-

ese" (le Chinois?), de Mohrenschildt had been recruited by the Office of Strategic Studies during the war and entered the University of Texas in 1944, where he obtained his degree in geological engineering (specializing in petroleum geology). The CIA used him in Iran, Egypt, Indonesia, Panama, Guatemala, Haiti, Nicaragua. De Mohrenschildt had close connections with the oil industry, in particular with the presidents of McGee Oil, Kerr, Continental Oil, Gogwell Oil Equipment Company, Texas Eastern Corporation, and with John Mecom of Houston.

To "Hepburn's" allegations may be added some interesting coincidences reported by Penn Jones in Vol. 4 of "Forgive My Grief". Penn notes that Oswald, de Mohrenschildt and the Paines all made trips during the latter third of April 1963. The Paines left Dallas on the 24th; Oswald left New Orleans on the same date. Meanwhile de Mohrenschildt had already left Dallas on April 19. Penn Jones suggests that there may be some connection between these departures and a speech which Vice-President Johnson delivered in Dallas on April 23 announcing that JFK would be visiting Dallas later in the year and would be dining at the Trade Mart. Johnson, Jones reports, made a jocular remark to the effect that however dissatisfied with JFK his audience was, they should not shoot him until next November! Possibly LBJ meant to say "November next year" (election year). □

## Pilot — Continued from page 5

... None of us will forget what happened in Dallas almost 12 years ago. I was as stunned as any American. When I had the first news that the President had been shot, I prayed that it would not be fatal. And next I found myself in somewhat of a trauma for the next few days .... Then came the appointment of the President's Commission chaired by Chief Justice Earl Warren. They investigated and reported concluding that there was no evidence of conspiracy and that Lee Harvey Oswald, alone and unassisted, was responsible for the death of President Kennedy and the wounding of Governor John B. Connally of Texas. And there the matter was supposed to rest for all time. ....

I did not believe it.

I did not believe that one man could have fired three shots in six seconds from a cheap, foreign-made, single-shot-bolt-action rifle with the deadly accuracy credited by the FBI and the Warren Commission. No way.

The great majority of Americans, it seems, never believed it. ....

## 5. From the Editor Edmund C. Berkeley Editor, "People and the PURSUIT of Truth"

One of the good books on logical argument is "Applied Logic" by W.W. Little, W. Harold Wilson, and W. Edgar Moore, published by Houghton Mifflin and Co., Boston, Mass., 1955, and used for many years as a text for students at the University of Florida. It lists 39 fallacies, and one of the fallacies is "Diversion", a wandering from the subject, a turning aside from the path, a failure to stick to the point (see page 17).

Mr. Bradlee has the unusual distinction of committing four fallacies of diversion in the first sentence of his letter. Political assassination in the United States has nothing to do with (1) playing poker, (2) eating in diners, (3) getting into argu-  
(please turn to page 8)

Based on a report in "JFK Assassination Forum", April 4, 1977, published by B. Burden.



ments with certain kinds of people, and (4) what his father taught him.

Second, Mr. Bradlee has the unusual distinction of denying that he is one of a class of persons the definition of which includes him: the class of persons knowingly participating in the coverups of one or more of the conspiracies about political assassinations in the United States.

According to the dictionary, to "conspire" is "to join in a secret agreement to do an unlawful or wrongful act or to use such means to accomplish a lawful end". There is also such a thing as a "silent conspiracy". Mr. Bradlee, as the executive editor of the "Washington Post", well knows the meaning of "conspire" and the meaning of "silent conspiracy". For example, he was one of the prime movers in revealing the Watergate conspiracy that involved former President Richard M. Nixon as one of the conspirators.

Mr. Bradlee could have said "I know that there are conspiracies, currently and in history. An example is the Watergate conspiracy which involved Nixon. It seems to me possible that there was a conspiracy against President Kennedy. A conspiracy would explain far more than the lone-assassin explanation of the Warren Commission Report." This would have expressed a scientific attitude, to be expected from a sophisticated, knowledgeable, and fair editor, not an editor who is engaged in promoting the lone-assassin theory and therefore participates in the Power Control Group.

Instead, he chose to answer the question of Mr. Pilot with four irrelevancies and a statement contrary to fact. Mr. Bradlee's answer is amazing, and is food for thought. Mr. Bradlee performs a disservice to the cause of truth in the United States.

If at any time the editors of "PURSUIT" magazine make misstatements, we shall do our best to publish corrections promptly. If at any time a person is maligned unfairly in our pages, we shall certainly give him a fair hearing in our pages. □

#### Kostman — Continued from page 6

shipments of arms to Castro, and who was particularly close to the Cuban premier. Ruby conveyed an offer of \$15,000 from someone in Las Vegas if McKeown would help get three unnamed people out of jail in Cuba. Three weeks later Ruby met McKeown and asked for a personal letter of introduction to Castro in return for \$25,000.

McKeown appeared on a CBS Special Report in November, 1975, relating a previously untold story. According to McKeown, Oswald, in the company of two Cubans, had approached him seeking to buy rifles shortly before the assassination. McKeown was not asked about his 1959 contact with Ruby.

McKeown was also prosecuted for offenses similar to Rothman's. His co-defendants included Cubans who have close business and personal ties to Bernard Barker, the Watergate burglar, and have been involved in cocaine smuggling. ("The New York Times", 6/22/70; Horace Sutton, "Curious Intrigues of Cuban Miami" in "The Assassinations: Dallas and Beyond", Eds. Hoch, Scott, Stetler.) Another Watergate burglar, Eugenio Martinez, was alleged to have been involved in Jose Aleman's circle of anti-Batista terrorists. Yet another member of the Watergate team,

Frank Sturgis, (as Frank Fiorini) is named in 1961 Senate testimony as having supplied Castro with arms as well as having served with his army and government. Sturgis, of course, became violently anti-Castro after the revolution. Recently, the Assassinations Committee asked Trafficante about Sturgis' organization, the "International Anti-Communist Brigade", which was said to be financed by a group of dispossessed Havana gambling operators. (Hans Turner, "Counterrevolutionary Agent".)

#### David Ferrie

David Ferrie, Jim Garrison's chief suspect in his New Orleans investigation, was employed by Carlos Marcello, the reputed mob overlord of New Orleans. Marcello is a close associate of Trafficante in gambling and narcotics operations.

Ferrie was an American who flew missions for Castro before 1959 and later was active in the CIA's attempt to overthrow him. Ferrie was found dead five days after his name was mentioned in connection with the assassination. The New Orleans District Attorney's office first became interested in Ferrie the day after the assassination because of convincing evidence that he knew Oswald as a youth. (More information on this can be found in the recently declassified Warren Commission Document 75.) When Ferrie was arrested on November 25, 1963, it was learned that he had just returned from an unexplained trip to Texas. Ferrie was employed as an investigator for the legal defense team of Carlos Marcello, who was fighting deportation, in court, on the day of the assassination. Both Marcello and Trafficante have extensive connections to the Teamsters Union.

#### Narcotics

Trafficante's involvement in narcotics provides another possible link to Ruby. In 1968, Trafficante travelled to Hong Kong and Saigon, reportedly to reorganize the heroin trade. The son of a member of the Trafficante family, Frank Furci was mentioned several times in testimony before the Senate Permanent Investigations Subcommittee in the late 1960's as having been involved in fraudulent currency manipulations in Saigon. Another mobster who was in Saigon even earlier was Victor Resignio, reportedly the son-in-law of Vito Genovese. Resignio was named in the testimony of Nancy Perrin Rich (whose husband was a gun-runner and who, herself, was a former Ruby stripper) as having been associated with Ruby in gun-running. As for narcotics, the Warren Commission received evidence (23H 369-70) from an informant of the Federal Bureau of Narcotics, Eileen Curry, who knew Ruby, that Ruby was running an efficient drug smuggling business across the Mexican border and had the fix in with local authorities.

There is also the story of Rose Cheramie, a Ruby employee who was admitted to a Louisiana hospital just before the assassination suffering from narcotics withdrawal and severe injuries apparently incurred when she was thrown out of a moving automobile. Cheramie indicated her companions were making a drug delivery. She reportedly made statements on Nov. 22, 1963, indicating foreknowledge of the assassination. She was killed by a hit-and-run driver in Texas in 1965.

(To be continued)